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| APPLICATION NO.   | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/800,943  | 03/15/2004  | Yuhua Tong           | D/A3223             | 1275             |
| 7590  | 01/26/2006  |                      | EXAMINER            |                  |
| Marylou J. Lavoie, Esq. LLC<br>1 Banks Road<br>Simsbury, CT 06070 |             |                      | GOODROW, JOHN L     |                  |
|   |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
|   |             |                      | 1756                |                  |

DATE MAILED: 01/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                 |              |  |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | Application No. | Applicant(s) |  |
|                              | 10/800,943      | TONG ET AL.  |  |
|                              | Examiner        | Art Unit     |  |
|                              | John L. Goodrow | 1756         |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                            2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-3,5-14 and 16-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 4 and 15 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/04, 9/05.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Information Disclosure Statement***

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 3/4 & 9/05 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. A broad range or limitation together with a narrow range or limitation that falls within the broad range or limitation (in the same claim) is considered indefinite, since the resulting claim does not clearly set forth the metes and bounds of the patent protection desired. See MPEP § 2173.05(c). Note the explanation given by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences in *Ex parte Wu*, 10 USPQ2d 2031, 2033 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1989), as to where broad language is followed by "such as" and then narrow language. The Board stated that this can render a claim indefinite by raising a question or doubt as to whether the feature introduced by such language is (a) merely exemplary of the remainder of the claim, and therefore not required, or (b) a required feature of the claims. Note also, for example, the decisions of *Ex parte Steigewald*, 131 USPQ 74 (Bd. App. 1961); *Ex parte Hall*, 83 USPQ 38 (Bd. App. 1948); and *Ex parte Hasche*, 86 USPQ 481 (Bd. App. 1949). In the present instance, claims 9-11, 20-22 recites the broad recitation of the amounts of metal alkyloxide, amino siloxane and color

change material, and the claim also recites a narrow range which is the narrower statement of the range/limitation.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

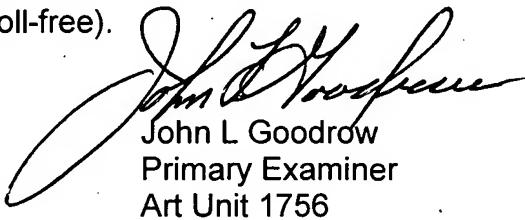
Claims 1-3, 5-14, 16-22 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tong et al [20050058919] in view of Yu et al [5460911] and Markovics et al [5641599]. Tong et al teaches a hole-blocking layer in a photoconductive imaging member having a metal alkyloxide and an amino siloxane. Markovics et al fails to teach the use of a pigment in the hole-blocking layer. Both Yu et al and Markovics teach an electrophotographic imaging member comprising a substrate, a hole blocking, an optional interface adhesive layer, a charge generating layer and a charge transport layer. The hole blocking layer comprising a light absorbing material selected from the group consisting of a dye, pigment, or mixture thereof dissolved or dispersed in a hole-blocking matrix comprising a film-forming polymer. Markovics teaches the dyes in Col. 7-8. Yu et al teaches the dyes in Col. 18. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicants' invention with a reasonable expectation of success to use the light absorbing pigments in the hole-blocking layer to control the plywood effect and light absorption of the layer as taught in Tong et al.

4. Claims 4 &15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John L. Goodrow whose telephone number is 571-272-1384. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday -Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark F. Huff can be reached on 571-272-1385. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



John L Goodrow  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1756

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